

PASTG News Notes - December 2001

ARIS Update ... contributed by Lori Wilson-Voss

Rhea Fryar (from Lubbock, Texas) and I have been testing the ARIS (Agricultural Research Information System) program for several weeks. The Program Analysts began their testing the middle of November. I personally think everyone will be quite pleased with all the features the new program offers. It has drop down menus, cut and paste capability (no more file transfers!), improved search tables **AND** no more function keys!!! The program is now web based. With ARIS it won't be necessary to set up specific printers in order to print our work. ARIS contains all the information currently available through RMIS. The processes of entering and retrieving the information will just be easier! It is definitely a more user-friendly program than the current RMIS program.

As with any new program there are "kinks" that still must be worked out before it is deployed to the field. Be assured though Karen Kinney and her group are steadily working on these so things are working more smoothly before everyone starts using ARIS.

If everything goes according to schedule ARIS will deploy sometime towards the end of January/beginning of February. Marilyn Paul will keep us informed as to what she has planned for training everyone on ARIS.

What to do if you lose your purse or wallet ... contributed by Georgetta Stonewall

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed using your name, address, SS#, credit, etc. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know. As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: - **Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#.** The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

We pass along jokes; we pass along just about everything. Do think about passing this information along.

It could really help someone.

Dr. Horn visits Ames

The Ames Locations were honored to have a visit from Dr. Floyd Horn, ARS Administrator, on October 16, 2001. Dr. Horn was given a tour of the National Animal Disease Center, the National Soil Tilth Laboratory, the Swine Odor and Manure Management Research Unit, and visited with the Research Leaders from the Plant Introduction and Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Units. Dr. Horn was in Iowa to attend the World Food Prize International Symposium which was being held in Des Moines, Iowa.

Changing Faces in the MWA

Judy Shoen

In August, Judy Shoen began work at the Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Unit on the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa. She replaces Nancy Gallagher as the secretary for Les Lewis. Some of you may remember her from the nine years when she worked at the National Soil Tilth Laboratory. Judy's hometown is Cambridge, Iowa. She is married with two grown children, one of whom is married and the other one is engaged. Her main interest outside of work is camping. She is very happy to be back with ARS and working with Les and all the great people in her unit.

September 11th

The following poems were written for an English assignment by sophomore students at North Polk High School in Alleman, Iowa.

National Tragedy

A normal day
People hard at work
Or on their way.
Above two enormous towers
A passenger jet soars through the sky
Slicing the wind with giant wings
Turning sharply
It speeds straight for the towers
Filled with thousands of unsuspecting
people
Hard at work
Totally clueless about.....
The jet
Cutting right through the tower
Shooting out the other side

When
It explodes
Along with people's hopes, dreams,
friends,
and family.
People scream and cry,
But that can't undo what just happened.
The United States of America
Will never be the same.
This is a national tragedy.

I Never Thought

Too awful to watch.
Too awful to see.
As I watch the television
I think.
It happened to others,
They could have been me.
The falling ash is like fireworks.
The metal, concrete, and papers,
they lie crushed and twisted
spilling out into the street
and crushing the rescuers.
The people are screaming.
In the screams, I hear the
pain, the fear, and the uncertainty.
They are running from the thick
gray cloud
that rushes down the street.
On Monday war was far away.
It never could have happened here.
That's what I thought,
until now....
What once was far away,
is now much too near.
I never thought it would happen here.

America Attacked

I can hardly stand to watch the TV and I can hardly look away.
I can't believe that America was attacked today.
Dust blankets people, some covered with blood,
Walking talking statues, where did they come from?
Some in uniforms, some in suits and ties,
One high heeled shoe lying off to the side.
Another ground shaking explosion. Will this ever stop?
Gray smoke billowing down the street, rising to the rooftops.
The statues turn to run, then disappear in seconds,
Swallowed by a monster cloud of ash.
It's terrible to think about.....
Today it rained paper confetti, but who is celebrating?
Not me.....

ALL IN ONE HOUR

The look of terror in their eyes,
Crying babies,
Dazed tourists,
No one knows what has just happened.
Everyone stands still, lifeless, as the
planes tear into the towers.
No one knows what to think or do.
All in one hour, the U.S. stops.
All in one hour,
The unthinkable has happened.
All in one hour
Our lives have changed forever.

Let us begin anew, remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, that sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.

- John F. Kennedy

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

- Martin Luther

Helpful Websites

GOVERNMENT:

Federal Register	http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/#fr
GSA Home Page	http://www.GSA.gov/Portal/main.jsp?tab=home
US Government Printing Office	http://www.access.gpo.gov/

NATIONAL FINANCE CENTER SITES:

NFC Home page	http://www.nfc.usda.gov
NFC Publications and Forms	http://dab.nfc.usda.gov/pubs/na-pubsmain.html

FILES, RETENTION AND DISPOSITION

It's that time of year ... time to clean out old files and start over! Here is a helpful reminder from the PASTG SOP on what to keep and what to discard or destroy ...

BUDGET -- Current plus 5 years (in case of 5-year review)
ANNUAL REPORTS AND PLANS -- Current plus 5 years (in case of 5-year review)
STATUS OF FUNDS -- Current plus 2 years
PURCHASE ORDERS -- Current plus 2 years
PATENT INFORMATION -- Current plus 5 years
T&As, Hard Copy -- Current plus 6 years (including backup documentation; e.g., leave slips)
T&As, Disk Copy -- 26 Pay Periods
TRAVEL (DOMESTIC)-- Current plus 6 years
TRAVEL (FOREIGN) -- Current plus 6 years
TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS -- Current plus 6 years
TRAVEL VOUCHERS -- Current plus 6 years
TRAINING FORMS -- Current plus 3 years
CORRESPONDENCE -- Current plus 5 years
115's -- Current plus three years (provided they've been published)
425's -- Current plus five years (funded or unfunded)
PCMS Documentation -- Purchase Under \$2500 -- Three years from date of purchase
PCMS Documentation -- Purchase Over \$2500 -- Current plus six years
Throw nothing away on program agreements, projects (active or inactive), etc.

Recipes

BROCCOLI DIP from Sedina Lowe

1 package frozen broccoli, thaw in microwave and drain well
8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature, or soften in microwave
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1 cup shredded cheese (cheddar or hot pepper)

Mix all ingredients together and place in oven proof bowl.
Sprinkle ½ to 1 cup cheese on top also.
Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until bubbly.
Serve with crackers or favorite chip.

Pecan Sticky Buns from Heather Pace

1 bag of 36 frozen dinner rolls
Pecans
Stick and ½ of butter
½ cup brown sugar
cinnamon to taste

1 package butterscotch pudding (not instant)

Butter bottom and sides of cake pan. Put pecan pieces in bottom of pan. Place frozen rolls on top of pecans. Sprinkle butterscotch pudding on top of rolls. Melt butter in microwave. Add brown sugar and cinnamon. Pour over top of rolls. Cover top tightly with foil. Let sit overnight on the counter (not in the refrigerator). Bake uncovered, 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees. Turn out onto a large cookie sheet and enjoy!



Make a Snowman Ornament with Your Kids over the Holidays.

This cute little snowman needs the following supplies:

1 used light bulb

Tape adhesive (putty like substance used to hang things on walls)

White primer spray paint

White snow sparkle paint

Red or green paint for the "hat"

White pipe cleaner

Ribbon for a "Scarf"

Black beads, sequins or snaps for the eyes

Tooth pick painted orange for the nose

White pompom for the hat

Wreath, bell, gift, broom or something for the snowman to hold.

Decorative string to hang the ornament.

These supplies can all be purchased at a craft store. Beginning with the light bulb, attach the "arms," after shaping your tape adhesive to be rounded by the "hands." Spray the bulb with a white primer spray and let dry. Paint again with the white snow sparkle paint and let dry. Paint the bulb base with red or green for the hat. Glue a strip of white pipe cleaner around the edge of the "hat." A glue gun works well for gluing the accessories. This snowman has snaps for the eyes, but you may also use black beads or sequins. Paint the end of a toothpick orange for the nose and glue. Add a pom pom on top of the "hat" with a decorative string coming from the base of the pom pom so that you can hang the snowman on a tree. You may find wreaths, brooms, gifts, bells etc in craft stores to make each snowman unique. Add a ribbon that looks "scarf-like," or you can crochet a small scarf with some of your left-over crochet thread. Using different size light bulbs can give you a whole family of snowmen. Have fun!

If you have a something that you would like to share in the newsletter, please contact one of the PASTG members with the information.